

From: (Paul Hounsell)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern;

While I am not an American citizen I would like to respectfully submit the following for your consideration. Since Microsoft has proprietary file formats for its office documents I am forced to buy a computer with Microsoft products on it if I want to share documents with other businesses. I have no choice really and to make matters worse, once any company upgrades its Microsoft office products, then everybody is forced to do the same just so businesses can continue to share documents.

If Microsoft was the Ford motor company, then everybody would have to drive Fords on a Ford-only highway. No other choice allowed. If you choose to drive a GM then it may or may not work on the Ford highway, but none of your cargo would fit inside right, if at all. Also you would not be able to share your cargo with a Ford.

I would like to propose a punishment on Microsoft that would totally open the Windows market for other companies to offer a wide variety of products. The issue is; how are Word, Excel, Power Point, etc documents formatted. If Microsoft were forced to make public the file format structure of its office products then any company would, for example, be able to write a word processor that could read and write Word documents properly and customers would have a choice as to what word processor they use. The same is true for all Microsoft office products.

To be fair the law should be such that any software company that own more than 70% of a market segment should have to do the same. Of course if the software is ONLY used in a national security application then that software should be kept secret.

Thank you for your time

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